

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for controlling the internal circumference of an anatomic orifice or lumen, comprising the steps of:

stopping the flow of physiological fluids through an anatomic orifice or lumen;

~~creating an incision in the body of a patient to provide access~~ introducing an adjustable implant device adjacent to a desired said anatomic orifice or lumen, said implant device substantially defining a plane;

~~securing an annular ring the adjustable implant device to the tissue around adjacent said anatomic orifice or lumen, wherein said adjustable implant device comprises a docking mechanism configured to operably engage an adjustment tool to adjust size or shape of said adjustable implant device;~~

~~closing said incision;~~

resuming the flow of physiological fluids through said anatomic orifice or lumen; and

~~after said step of resuming the flow of physiological fluids, adjusting the circumference of said annular ring to control the internal circumference of said anatomic orifice or lumen, using the flow of physiologic fluids through said anatomic orifice or lumen as a factor in adjusting said circumference~~ size or shape of said adjustable implant device using an adjustment tool operably engaged with said docking mechanism, wherein said adjustment tool has a proximal portion and a distal portion, and wherein, when operably engaged, at least the distal portion of said adjustment tool is disposed in a non-planar orientation with respect to said plane defined by said implant device.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein said anatomic orifice or lumen is a heart valve.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): The method of claim 1, ~~wherein said annular ring~~

~~comprises teeth on at least a portion thereof;~~

~~wherein said annular ring has a gear operatively associated therewith; and~~

~~wherein said gear and said teeth are arranged such that rotating said gear effects movement of a first end of said annular ring with respect to a second end of said annular ring to adjust the circumference thereof; and~~

~~wherein said step of adjusting the circumference of said annular ring to control the internal circumference of said anatomic orifice or lumen size or shape of said adjustable implant device comprises the a step of manipulating rotating said proximal portion of said adjustment tool gear.~~

Claim 4 (Currently amended): The method of claim 3, wherein said step of manipulating rotating said proximal portion of said adjustment tool gear comprises the a step of rotating said proximal portion of said adjustment tool gear from a location outside a said closed incision.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): The method of claim 4, wherein said step of ~~rotating said gear~~ manipulating said proximal portion of said adjustment tool from a location outside a said closed incision comprises the a step of rotating said ~~gear with a elongated tool having a first end engaging said gear and a second end extending outside said closed incision~~ proximal portion of said adjustment tool while said distal portion of said adjustment tool is operably engaged with said docking mechanism effective to operate said adjustment mechanism effective to adjust a size or shape of said adjustable implant device.

Claims 6-22 (Cancelled)

Claim 23 (New): The method of claim 1, wherein said step of adjusting size or shape of the adjustable implant device is conducted under normal or near-normal physiologic conditions.

Claim 24 (New): The method of claim 4, further comprising a step of disengaging said adjustment tool from engagement with said docking mechanism without altering the adjusted size or shape of said adjustable implant device.

Claim 25 (New): The method of claim 24, further comprising a step of operably re-engaging said adjustment tool with said docking mechanism.

Claim 26 (New): The method of claim 25, further comprising a further step of manipulating said adjustment tool, effective to re-adjust size or shape of the adjustable implant device.

Claim 27 (New): The method of claim 24, further comprising a step of moving said distal portion of said adjustment tool to a position outside of said closed incision.

Claim 28 (New): The method of claim 27, wherein said position outside of said closed incision comprises a position outside of the body of said patient.

Claim 29 (New): The method of claim 1, wherein said step of adjusting size or shape of said adjustable implant device comprises reducing the size of said adjustable implant device.

Claim 30 (New): The method of claim 1, wherein said step of adjusting size or shape of said adjustable implant device comprises increasing the size of said adjustable implant device.

Claim 31 (New): The method of claim 23, wherein said step of adjusting size or shape of said adjustable implant device comprises reducing the size of said adjustable implant device.

Claim 32 (New): The method of claim 23, wherein said step of adjusting size or shape of said adjustable implant device comprises increasing the size of said adjustable implant device.

Claim 33 (New): The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of adjusting size or shape of said adjustable implant device before said resuming step.

Claim 34 (New): The method of claim 33, wherein said further step of adjusting a size or a shape of said adjustable implant device before said closing step is performed after said securing step.

Claim 35 (New): A method for controlling the internal circumference of an anatomic orifice or lumen, comprising the steps of:

stopping the flow of physiological fluids through an anatomic orifice or lumen;

introducing an adjustable implant device adjacent to said anatomic orifice or lumen, wherein said adjustable implant device includes a micromotor array with one or more micro-electromechanical motor systems to adjust size or shape of said implant;

securing the adjustable implant device to tissue adjacent said anatomic orifice or lumen;

resuming the flow of physiological fluids through said anatomic orifice or lumen; and

after said step of resuming the flow of physiological fluids, adjusting size or shape of said adjustable implant device using an said micromotor array.

Claim 36 (New): The method of claim 35, wherein said step of adjusting size or shape of said adjustable implant device is initiated using remote control signals.

Claim 37 (New): The method of claim 36, wherein said remote control signals are conveyed by electromagnetic radiation.

Claim 38 (New): The method of claim 36, wherein said remote control signals are conveyed by direct circuitry.

Claim 39 (New): The method of claim 35, wherein said step of adjusting size or shape of the adjustable implant device is conducted under normal or near-normal physiologic conditions.